

LOYOLA OF MONTREAL

7200 SHERBROOKE ST. W., MONTREAL 28, QUEBEC

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HOME OF THE WARRIORS

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND ATHLETICS

For release Wednesday

TORONTO FAVORED IN CENTENNIAL TOURNEY

University of Toronto Varsity hockey Blues rank as prohibitive favorites to walk away with Loyola Centennial Hockey tournament honors for the second year in a row Friday at the Forum.

The Blues, who are rated the top college ice crew in Canada, open defence of their tournament crown Thursday at 7 P.M. against defending Ottawa-St. Lawrence Conference Hockey champion Sir George Williams University. The host school, Loyola, meets McGill Redmen at 9 P.M. in the second half of the holiday doubleheader.

If Toronto gets by Sir George, coach Tom Watt's Queen City pucksters will tackle the Loyola - McGill winner Friday at 9 P.M. for the David Molson Trophy, emblematic of tournament supremacy. A consolation contest will be reeled off prior to the final at 7 P.M.

Paul Laurent, a member of Toronto Marlboros' potent Memorial Cup champion outfit in 1963-64, is one of the main reasons for Varsity's unbeaten status in the Ontario - Quebec Athletic Association race.

While with Marlboros, Laurent played with such note-worthy skaters as Ron Ellis, Pete Stenkowski, Mike Walton and Brit Selby, all now in the National Hockey League, and Gary Dineen, presently with Canada's National team. Laurent was then and is now, considered on a par with these stars. He is a shifty centre who pivots Varsity's first line between Gord Cunningham and Ward Passi.

Leading OQAA pointgetter Bob McClelland is a right wing on the second unit alongside Bob Hamilton and Murray Stroud. Smooth-skating rearguard Peter Spire also takes an occasional turn up front. The Toronto goalkeeper is St. Lambert native John Wrigley, who got his preliminary training with Snowdon Ponsards of the Metropolitan Junior 'B' Hockey League.

McGill, hit by injuries to defensive stalwarts George Kemp and Brian Kelly, are anxious to repeat an earlier triumph.

The Redmen won the pre-season McGill Invitational tourney over such schools as Sir George, Loyola, and University of Montreal, but have gone into a crippling slump since then.

One of McGill's recent defeats was a 21-4 debacle at the hands of the Varsity Blues in Toronto, but Redmen coach Dave Copp blames that one on slipshod goaltending and the over-enthusiastic Varsity fans.

McGill's big line of Peter Burgess, John Tibbits and Mike Stacey certainly ranks as one of the best in the tourney. Skippy Kerner and Harry Griffiths, Jr. anchor the second attacking unit, while G.B. Maughan is the club's number one rearguard.

Loyola fans are rejoicing in the news that captain Roger Wilding has been pronounced fit to participate in the tourney after missing several games with hypertension. Wilding will be back at his familiar spot on the ice, centering for wingers Danny Heffernan and Mike Lowe.

Scoring ace Ricky Dawson also returns to the Loyola lineup in time for Centennial action after ironing out personal business. The only regular Warrior who won't dress in the tournament is centre Chris Hayes, who is bypassing the event in order to yield to study pressures.

Sir George hopes that goalie Doug Cageorge will be able to hold the sharpshooting Toronto forwards at bay Thursday. He'll need plenty of help from defencemen Bryce Liberty, Tony Lees, John Murray and Larry Meehan, however.

The Georgians, too, have been injury-riddled. Wayne McGill is through for the season after an auto accident and Gordie Ross has yet to see any action after being a pre-season casualty. In addition, fiery Joe Rae may be hanging up the blades because of personal problems.

Sir George looks for yeomen efforts from such high-flying forwards as Bill Ellyet, Bill McJannet, Toby O'Brien and Phil Sutton.